Appl. No. 09/890,179 Amdt. dated May 11, 2005 Reply to Office Action of February 7, 2005

Amendments to the Abstract:

Please add the paragraph ABSTRACT after the claim section as follows – a separate page is also included:

ABSTRACT

A secure processor can operate with a host processor to perform a unitary decrypt/authentication operation. The host processor can receive encrypted messages that include authentication information. The host processor can submit each message to the secure processor so that the secure processor can decrypt and authenticate. It the authentication operation is not successful, the secure processor does not return the fully decrypted message back to the host.